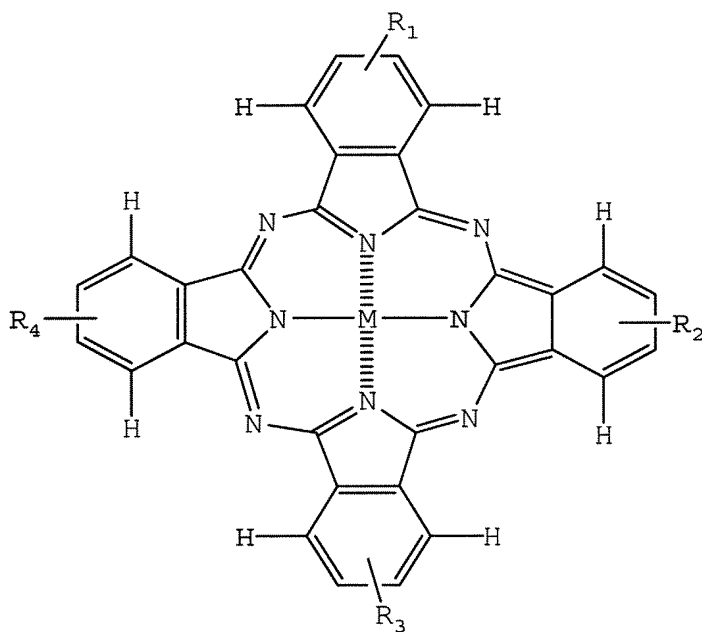


IN THE CLAIMS:

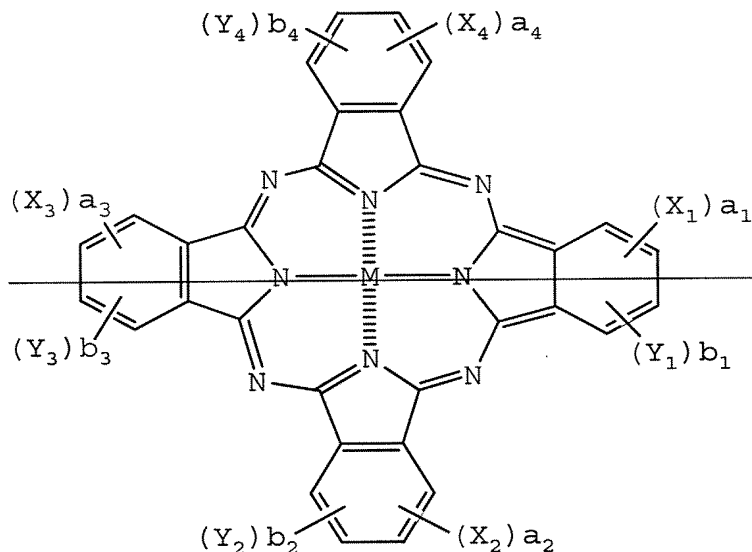
Claim 1 (currently amended) An ink composition comprising at least water, a cyan dye represented by formula (I) (II) shown below, and an aromatic compound having a carboxyl group and/or a salt thereof:

Formula (II):



Formula (I):

[Chem. 1]



(wherein X_1 , X_2 , X_3 and X_4 each independently represents either SO-Z or $\text{SO}_2\text{-Z}$, wherein R_1 to R_4 each independently represents SO_2Z and each Z independently represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group, provided that at least one of the Z's has an ionic hydrophilic group as a substituent; and

Y_1 , Y_2 , Y_3 and Y_4 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, a nitro group, an amino group, an alkylamino group, an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, an amide group, an arylamino group, a ureido group, a sulfamoylamino group, an alkylthio group, an arylthio group, an alkoxycarbonylamino group, a sulfonamido group, a carbamoyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, a heterocyclic oxy group, an azo

~~group, an acyloxy group, a carbamoyloxy group, a silyloxy group, an aryloxy carbonyl group, an aryloxy carbonylamino group, an imido group, a heterocyclic thio group, a phosphoryl group, an acyl group or an ionic hydrophilic group, and each group may further have a substituent;~~

~~——— a_1 to a_4 and b_1 to b_4 each represents the number of substituents X_1 to X_4 and to Y_4 , a_1 to a_4 each independently represents an integer of 0 to 4, provided that a_1 to a_4 all are not 0 at the same time, and b_1 to b_4 each independently represents an integer of 0 to 4; and~~

~~M represents a hydrogen atom, a metal element or an oxide, hydroxide or halide thereof;~~

~~——— provided that at least one of X_1 , X_2 , X_3 , X_4 , Y_1 , Y_2 , Y_3 and Y_4 is an ionic hydrophilic group or a group having an ionic hydrophilic group as a substituent).~~

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended) The ink composition as claimed in claim 2 1, wherein said cyan dye is a cyan dye of formula (II) where M is a copper element and Z having an ionic hydrophilic group is a sulfoalkyl group.

Claim 4 (original) The ink composition as claimed in claim 3, wherein the counter cation of said sulfoalkyl group is a lithium cation.

Claim 5 (previously presented) The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said aromatic compound having a carboxyl group and/or a salt thereof is an aromatic compound having one carboxyl group and/or a salt thereof.

Claim 6 (previously presented) The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said aromatic compound having a carboxyl group and/or a salt thereof is a compound having a naphthalene skeleton and/or a salt thereof.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The ink composition as claimed in claim 6, wherein said compound having a naphthalene skeleton and/or a salt thereof is a compound having a carboxyl group and an -OR group (~~wherein,~~ wherein R is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 6, ~~6~~) on the naphthalene skeleton.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The ink composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein said compound having a naphthalene skeleton and/or a salt thereof is a compound having one carboxyl group and one -OR group (~~wherein,~~ wherein R is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 6, ~~6~~) on the naphthalene skeleton.

Claim 9 (previously presented) The ink composition as claimed in claim 6, wherein said compound having a naphthalene skeleton and/or a salt thereof is a compound having a carboxyl group at its 2-position and/or a salt thereof.

Claim 10 (currently amended) The ink composition as claimed in claim 9, wherein said compound having a carboxyl group at its 2-position and having a naphthalene skeleton and/or a salt thereof is at least one member selected from the group consisting of a 1-hydroxy-2-naphthoic acid, a 2-naphthoic acid, a 3-

hydroxy-2-naphthoic acid, a 6-hydroxy-2-naphthoic acid, a 3-methoxy-2-naphthoic acid, a 6-methoxy-2-naphthoic acid, a 6-ethoxy-2-naphthoic acid, a 6-propoxy-2-naphthoic acid, and a salt thereof.

Claim 11 (previously presented) The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said salt is a lithium salt.

Claim 12 (previously presented) The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, which comprises said aromatic compound having a carboxyl group and/or a salt thereof in an amount of 0.1 to 10 wt% based on the entire amount of the ink composition.

Claim 13 (previously presented) The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the content ratio of said cyan dye and said aromatic compound having a carboxyl group and/or a salt thereof is from 1:0.1 to 1:10 in terms of the weight ratio.

Claim 14 (previously presented) The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises a nonionic surfactant.

Claim 15 (original) The ink composition as claimed in claim 14, wherein said nonionic surfactant is an acetylene glycol-based surfactant.

Claim 16 (previously presented) The ink composition as claimed in claim 14, which comprises said nonionic surfactant in an amount of 0.1 to 5 wt% based on the entire amount of the ink composition.

Claim 17 (previously presented) The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises a penetration accelerator.

Claim 18 (original) The ink composition as claimed in claim 17, wherein said penetration accelerator is a glycol ether.

Claim 19 (previously presented) The ink composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pH of the ink composition at 20°C is from 8.0 to 10.5.

Claim 20 (currently amended) ~~The~~ An inkjet recording method that utilizes the ink composition as claimed in claim 1, ~~which is used in an inkjet recording method.~~

Claim 21 (currently amended) ~~The ink composition~~ inkjet recording method as claimed in claim 20, wherein said inkjet recording method is a recording method that utilizes ~~using~~ an inkjet head which forms an ink droplet by mechanical deformation of an electrostrictive element.

Claim 22 (currently amended) An inkjet recording method comprising ejecting a liquid droplet of an ink composition, and attaching said liquid droplet onto a

recording medium, thereby performing the recording, wherein the ink composition used is the ink composition in claim 1.

Claim 23 (previously presented) Recorded matter which is recorded with the ink composition claimed in claim 1.

Claim 24 (previously presented) Recorded matter recorded by the recording method claimed in claim 22.